

BALDOCK      URBAN      DISTRICT      COUNCIL

ANNUAL      REPORT

OF      THE

MEDICAL      OFFICER      OF      HEALTH

FOR      THE      YEAR

1 9 6 8

Baldock Urban District Council,  
Council Offices,  
High Street,  
BALDOCK,  
Herts.

(Telephone: Baldock 3221/4)





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BALDOCK  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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MEMBERS AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1968.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:

B. Sykes J.P.

CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

Dr. N. Burgess

COUNCILLORS:

J. H. Barton

R. F. Stamford

A. J. Preston

G. A. York

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

J. D. HALL, M.R.C.S.(Eng.) L.R.C.P.(Lond.) D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

B. G. WILLIS, M.A.P.H.I.

## PREFACE

Public Health Department,

Council Offices,

Baldock.

To the Chairman and Members of Baldock Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN:

The population of Baldock showed an overall decrease of 70 and a natural increase of 21 revealing a migration out of town.

Two deaths only occurred in children under the age of 1 year both under the age of 1 week. The infant mortality rate was therefore rather less than the previous year but the perinatal rate was somewhat higher. There were no maternal deaths.

The number of deaths from all causes was very similar to that of 1967, the commonest cause of death remaining diseases of the heart and blood vessels.

The rates continue to be slightly higher than those for the remainder of the division and the county as a whole.

No outbreaks of serious epidemic disease occurred during the year and the state of public health in Baldock continues to be satisfactory.

The typhoid epidemic which occurred in June 1968 in the Hitchin area revealed no contacts of cases in Baldock. A summary however is included for interest.

### TYPHOID OUTBREAK AT HITCHIN

On Friday 31st May, 1968, an Indian (Sikh) boy, aged two years, was admitted to hospital, with diarrhoea, vomiting and some fever. He had recovered sufficiently to be discharged on Sunday 2nd June, 1968.

During his weekend stay in hospital, a wedding was celebrated at the patient's home; this was attended by all the members of household (fourteen persons, from two families), the bride and bridegroom (who were not members of the household), the officiating priest, and numbers of Indian wedding guests who came both from the immediate neighbourhood in Hitchin, and from other areas such as Stevenage and Leicester. The bride and bridegroom immediately went to live in Coventry.

Following the child's return home from hospital on Sunday 2nd June, it is clear that he did not remain well for long, for he was re-admitted on Tuesday 4th June with severe toxæmia, diarrhoea, vomiting and fever. Investigations initiated during the next few days gave a positive blood culture for the typhoid bacillus.

The following courses of action were now adopted:-

- 1) Contacts of the case were traced with a view to placing them under surveillance.
- 2) Children at his home were excluded from school.
- 3) Three members of the household were excluded from work as they were food handlers: one of these people was a female who worked in a chicken packing factory in the rural district.
- 4) Guests at the wedding were traced with a view to placing them under surveillance.
- 5) It was decided that, in general, specimens of blood, urine and faeces should be examined from all contacts.

On the third day of the episode (Friday 13th June) a typhoid carrier was detected bacteriologically, as the chicken packer who lived in the same house as the first case. Because of her association with the chicken packing factory, the factory was closed, and all the workers there were treated as contacts. This patient was admitted to St. Albans City Hospital Isolation Unit.

In the course of tracing the contacts of both the original case and the carrier, close attention was paid to five groups of people.

- 1) Relevant patients and staff at the hospital where the first case was hospitalised.
- 2) Guests at the wedding mentioned above: it will be recalled that the wedding occurred during the child's first clinical illness, before a diagnosis had been reached, or even suspected.
- 3) Members of the household (fourteen persons) of the original case.
- 4) Staffs of local food shops from which members of the household purchased their food.
- 5) Staff at the chicken packing factory.



With the passage of time, contacts at the hospital and the chicken packing factory were cleared and it was re-opened in three days. Various members of the household from which both the confirmed case and the carrier originated were hospitalised, either because their blood sera gave suspicious reactions, or for social reasons. No further cases from this group were confirmed.

Only one food shop was relevant to the outbreak - a general store run by an Indian family: this family had not infrequent social and commercial contact with members of the household yielding the first case. The wife of the proprietor of this shop seemed vaguely unwell; and was admitted to hospital (together with her infant son), the shop was closed, and food and other samples examined. Contacts and food samples were cleared and the shop was re-opened in two days.

Guests and participants at the wedding were traced at Hitchin, Leicester, Coventry and Stevenage. All were quickly cleared except one - an Indian male resident in England for some years. His blood cultures however proved uniformly negative.

#### Observations:

- 1) At the onset it was thought that the general store run by the Indian family may have been the source of this typhoid outbreak: it became clear very soon that this was not the case. It will be recalled that the proprietor's wife had been admitted to hospital and that her infant son had been admitted to hospital with her.
- 2) At about the same time a small boy from the same house as the first case, who had been hospitalised for social reasons, was found to be harbouring a strain of Salmonella panama in his faeces.
- 3) The bride at the wedding was a young Indian who entered Britain on 2nd May 1968 from India, some five weeks prior to the start of the episode and had lived in the same house as both confirmed cases: because she was the only new entrant into the relevant part of the Indian community in Hitchin, and because of her close contact with both it was thought that she might herself be a carrier or more probably a convalescent case. The organism however was not isolated.

#### Source of the Outbreak:

The three possible sources of infection in this outbreak were food, a case, and a carrier; water was not seriously considered as a possible source.

- 1) Food: food samples from the shop supplying the Sikh community and from the household in which the cases occurred were sampled within the first few days and all were negative.

Chickens from the chicken-packing factory were also sampled and found to be negative within the same period.

- 2) A case: The bride, who arrived from India a few weeks before the first case occurred and lived in the closest possible contact was considered a likely source: she was young and likely to recover from typhoid without producing a carrier state. It is possible that she infected both the woman and the child as a convalescent case. Her bacteriological findings carried out in Coventry were, however, negative; but this is not necessarily contra-indicative of being the source.
- 3) A carrier: it is easiest to attribute the source of the outbreak to the woman found both bacteriologically and serologically positive within two days of the outbreak and living in the same house as the child and the bride; she had, however, lived in this country for some three years and had not re-visited India during that time. It might be postulated that the lack of a typhoid outbreak before June 1968 could be due to her intermittency as a carrier; she is, however now a persistent excretor and must be considered a permanent carrier.

In my opinion the source of the outbreak as a choice between the bride and the present carrier cannot be made.

#### Summary:

A small outbreak of typhoid fever (one confirmed case and one carrier), restricted to the Indian (Sikh) community at Hitchin as described. After the main episode no secondary cases developed. Examination of the two isolates of Salmonella typhi showed them to be of 'phage type 0' (origin India).

Total number of Sikhs examined 167

Total number with positive serological findings 28

Percentage positive 17

Total number of cantacts examined other than Sikhs 156

Total number with positive serological findings 9

Percentage positive 6

Number of contacts traced and sampled 223

The cost of this small outbreak to Hitchin Urban and Rural District should not be ignored, incurred by closure of the chicken-packing factory for three days, and of a shop for two days. It would seem that a district, no matter its size, is vulnerable if it includes in its area a factory of this kind; had the Public Health Laboratory Service not been able to act in testing samples so expeditiously, the bill to the District Councils could well have been greater than they could reasonably stand. The present legislation, making each local district council responsible for debts of this kind, appears to be unrealistic.

I would record my gratitude, for the advice and services given by the Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton, Dr. A.T. Willis, during the outbreak; for a period of five days - including a weekend - the laboratory staff, the staff of the local district councils (especially the public health inspectors) and the staff of the local health authority were working without remission in tracing and obtaining samples from contacts. I would also record my gratitude to the members and the Clerks of the local authorities concerned for their support.

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I would like to express my thanks to all the public health, health and welfare staff in Baldock, including those concerned with the administration for their help and co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J.D. HALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

Divisional Health Office,  
Bedford Road,  
Hitchin, Hertfordshire,

Telephone No: Hitchin 50411



BALDOCK VITAL STATISTICS 1968

LIVE BIRTHS:

	Males	Females	TOTAL
<u>Total</u>	47	47	94
Legitimate	44	46	90
Illegitimate	3	1	4
Live Birth Rate (uncorrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	13.9
Live Birth Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	14.7
Illegitimate live births percentage of total live births	-	-	4.2

STILL-BIRTHS:

<u>Total</u>	-	1	1
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	-	-	11.0
Total live and still-births	47	48	95

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

<u>Total</u>	2	-	2
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	21.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	-	22.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-	0.00
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	21.0
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	21.2
Perinatal mortality rate (still-Births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	-	-	31.5

MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION:

Number of deaths	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	-	-	0.0

TOTAL DEATHS:

Death Rate (uncorrected)	38	35	73
Death Rate (corrected)	-	-	10.8
Natural increase in population	-	-	15.0
Overall decrease of population			21
			70

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BALDOCK.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over.
B19 (1) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM-STOMACH	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -
B19 (2) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM-LUNG, BRONCHUS	M F	2 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	- -
B19 (3) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM-BREAST	M F	- 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- 1	- -	- -
B19 (4) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM-UTERUS	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -
B19 (6) OTHER MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS, ETC.	M F	1 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	- 1
B46 (1) OTHER ENDOCRINE ETC. DISEASES.	M F	- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- -	- -	- -
B46 (3) MENTAL DISORDERS	M F	2 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 -	- -	- -
B46 (4) OTHER DISEASES OF NERVOUS SYSTEM ETC.	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -
B28 ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE	M F	15 11	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	4 -	2 3	2 3	2 5
B29 OTHER FORMS OF HEART DISEASE	M F	- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1
B30 CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	M F	4 4	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 -	1 1	1 3
B46 (5) OTHER DISEASES OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	M F	1 4	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- 4
B32 PNEUMONIA	M F	1 5	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	- 2
TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD	M F	29 39	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	5 2	10 4	10 7	3 16



CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	A G E I N Y E A R S										75 and Under
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-			
TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD:-	M	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	10	10	3	
B33 (1) BRONCHITIS AND EMPHYSEMA	F	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	7	16	
B46(6) OTHER DISEASES RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	
B46(6) OTHER DISEASES RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
B46(6) OTHER DISEASES RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
B46(6) OTHER DISEASES RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B34 PEPTIC ULCER	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
B34 PEPTIC ULCER	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
B46 (7) OTHER DISEASES DIGESTIVE SYSTEM	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
B46 (7) OTHER DISEASES DIGESTIVE SYSTEM	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B43 BIRTH INJURY, DIFFICULT LABOUR, ETC.	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B43 BIRTH INJURY, DIFFICULT LABOUR, ETC.	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B44 OTHER CAUSES OF PERINATAL MORTALITY	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B44 OTHER CAUSES OF PERINATAL MORTALITY	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B45 SYMPTOMS AND ILL- DEFINED CONDITIONS	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
B45 SYMPTOMS AND ILL- DEFINED CONDITIONS	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
B47 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B47 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
B48 ALL OTHER ACCIDENTS	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B48 ALL OTHER ACCIDENTS	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	38	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	12	12	6	
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	F	35	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	4	8	20	

POPULATION STATISTICS

	District 1968 Baldock	North Hertford- shire Division	Hertford- shire	England and Wales.
Population	6,750	154,550	892,470	48,593,000
Live Births (Crude)	13.9	18.0	16.2	16.9
Live Births (Corrected)	14.7	-	15.2	*
Death Rate - All causes Crude	10.8	8.9	9.5	11.9
Death Rate - All causes Corrected	15.0		10.7	*
Infective and Parasitic Diseases - excluding Tuberculosis, but including Syphilis and other V.D.	0.00	0.006	0.05	*
Tuberculosis:				
Respiratory	0.00	0.006	0.21	0.03
Other Forms	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.13
All Forms	0.00	0.02	0.25	*
Cancer:				
Lung and Bronchus	0.29	0.40	1.95	0.59
Other	1.03	1.46	}	1.72
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	1.17	1.23	1.32	*
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	4.7	3.28	2.84	*
Respiratory Diseases	1.48	1.03	1.38	*
Maternal Mortality	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.24
Infantile Mortality	21.0	17.5	16.1	18.0
Neo-Natal Mortality	21.2	10.7	11.12	12.4
Early Neonatal Mortality	21.2	10.4	9.94	10.5
Perinatal Mortality	31.5	24.7	22.5	25.0
Stillbirths	11.0	14.4	12.76	14.0

\* Figures not available.



SECTION "A"  
NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	542
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population Mid - 1968.	6,750
Number of inhabited houses at 31st December 1968.	2,036
Rateable Value	£346,994
Net Product of 1d rate	£1,375

(b) PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Registrar General's estimate of resident population for 1968 showed an overall decrease of 70. The natural increase being 21.

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DIVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS 1968

	Males	Females	TOTAL
<b>LIVE BIRTHS:</b>			
Total	1,441	1,347	2,788
Legitimate	1,330	1,266	2,596
Illegitimate	111	81	192
Live Birth Rate (uncorrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	18.0
Live Birth Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	-
Illegitimate live births percentage of total live births	-	-	6.9
<b>STILL-BIRTHS:</b>			
Total	18	23	41
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	-	-	14.4
Total live and still-births	1,459	1,370	2,829
<b>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:</b>			
Total	29	20	49
Legitimate	28	17	45
Illegitimate	2	2	4
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	17.5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	-	17.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	-	-	20.8
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births).	-	-	10.0
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	9.7
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births.	-	-	24.0
<b>MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION</b>			
Number of deaths	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL DEATHS:</b>	677	713	1,390
Death Rate (uncorrected)	-	-	8.9
Death Rate (corrected)	-	-	*
Natural increase of population	-	-	1,398
Overall increase of population	-	-	3,770

SECTION "B" BALDOCK

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

Care of Mothers and Young Children - Section 22- Baldock.

Ante-Natal Instruction Classes:

Attendances increased by 141 during 1968. Ante-natal instruction classes are important, not only in their teaching of relaxation exercises but in the opportunity they afford for the general instruction of nursing mothers.

Clinic	No. of attendances 1968
Baldock	268

Family Planning Clinic.:

Family Planning in the division is provided by the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Branch of the Family Planning Association, and I am most grateful to the Branch Organising Secretary, Mrs. K. Arger, both for the provisions she has made and for this report.

Sessions:

Hitchin, Bedford Road - Tuesday afternoon (Double Doctor Session)  
Wednesday evening (Double Doctor Session)  
Thursday morning (Single Doctor Session)

The training of doctors and nurses in family planning methods is carried out in this clinic. An I.U.D. session is also included.

Three hundred and fifty nine new patients attended during the year and a total of 2,800 patients attended.

Oral contraception was the most used method.

Stevenage Family Centre - Tuesday afternoon (Treble Doctor Session)  
Wednesday morning (Treble Doctor Session)  
Thursday evening (Treble Doctor Session)  
Friday morning (Treble Doctor Session)

Doctors and nurses are also trained at the Stevenage Family Planning Clinic. No I.U.D. sessions are held.

Five hundred and thirty seven new patients attended during the year and a total of 7,646 patients attended. Oral contraception was the most used method.

Letchworth, Nevells Road, Health Centre - Opened in June 1968, with a single Doctor session on Monday evenings. It has registered 115 new patients besides relieving the Hitchin Clinic by taking many transfers from there. It is proposed shortly to appoint a second Doctor.



### Infant Welfare Clinics.

Infant Welfare Centre,  
Pinnocks Lane, Baldock.

Wednesday 2-4 p.m.  
Thursday 2-4 p.m.

Dr. S.J. Moyihan  
Health Visitor

Clinic	Children Born in 1968	Children Born in 1967	Children Born in 1963 - 1966	No. of attendances
Baldock.	93	103	221	3,044

### CHILD HEALTH ASSESSMENT UNIT.

The Sheldon Report on the child health services recommended the setting up of special units or panels to which children with special medical problems could be referred.

This unit has now been established in North Hertfordshire with the approval of the local medical committee and general practitioners and commenced in September, 1968; weekly sessions are held alternating between the Southgate Outpatients Clinic, Stevenage and the Health Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin. Dr. C.G. Fagg, Consultant Paediatrician, is in charge of the unit and is supported by the Assistant County Medical Officers and appropriate clerical staff. General Practitioners may refer any child to the unit themselves.

The establishment and maintenance of an Observation ("At Risk") Register is a necessary accompaniment to this unit and the special medical examination of children considered to be "At Risk" has been in operation for some time. Such children are those in the following categories:- family history of deafness; family history of diabetes; ante-partum haemorrhage; rhesus incompatibility; rubella in first four months of pregnancy; severe toxæmia; nephritis during pregnancy; difficult labour; anoxia, birth weight 5½lb or less; cerebral damage; neo-natal jaundice. These children are examined routinely at 3 months, one year, two years, three years and four years and any children found to be in normal health are removed from the register at the age of 18 months. Children who are found on examination to have a condition likely to affect their education or future are referred to the Child Health Assessment Unit and the Consultant Paediatrician is in a position to call on the most suitable agencies, including his Consultant colleagues for opinions or help.

It is hoped, therefore, that the setting up of this unit will enable a more thorough supervision of difficult problems to be maintained and that it will be of benefit to the community as a whole.



Attendances at this unit so far as follows:-

Children born in	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964 and over.
Baldock	-	2	-	-	-

One medical officer reported an increase in napkin rashes during 1968 and considers this due to over-medication with proprietary creams and excessive use of detergents and special rinses.

At the recommendation of the Sheldon Report Infant Welfare Clinics are now renamed Child Health Clinics. It is hoped that a new clinic will shortly be opened at Trotts Hill Infant School in Stevenage. During the year four nurses have attended the County's District Nurse Training Course in Welwyn Garden City.

#### Premature Infants.

A premature infant is one which weighs  $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb or less at birth.

#### PREMATURE INFANTS BORN IN 1968

District	Born Alive			Stillbirths			No. removed to hosp. after birth.	Died under 28 days			No. who survived 28 days.		
	At Home	In Hosp.	Total	At Home	In Hosp.	Total		At Home	In Hosp.	Total	Born at Home	Born in Hosp.	Total
Baldock	0	3	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	2

illegitimate births were notified by the Registrar General during 1968.

Day Nurseries. - Division.

<u>Category</u>	<u>No. on Register.</u>
1. Children of widows or widowers.	1
2. Children of unmarried mothers	7
3. Children of deserted wives or husbands.	24
4. Children of parents in prison	nil
5. Children of parents suffering from chronic illness or disablement	2
6. Temporary Cases, for example, mother's illness or confinement	1
7. Children recommended by doctor or health visitor for temporary help.	1
8. Children of parents coming within the "Essential Services" categories, for example, teachers and nurses (Local Committee Members' approval required).	3
9. Children living in bad housing conditions	Nil
10. Children of families where there was a risk of break-up in family.	2

The number of children on the register of the day nursery as at 31st December, 1968 was 41.

MIDWIFERY - SECTION 23 - BALDOCK

Ante Natal Instruction classes continue to be held in all the clinics but the actual ante-natal care and supervision is provided either in the G.P.'s surgery or in the home.

Entonox (Gas and Oxygen) has now completely replaced gas and air and all the midwives have been instructed in its use. During the year 31 pupil midwives from North Herts Maternity Unit have been placed in Hitchin, Stevenage and Letchworth for part of their training and have had good experience working with the Approved Teaching Midwives.

The County Council's policy, with the decline in birth rate and of domiciliary confinements, to appoint district nurse/midwives continued during 1968.

All midwives are authorised to use their private motor cars on official business and the County Council, in common with other local authorities, operate an assisted car-purchase scheme for staff classified as "essential users".

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY - BALDOCK.

Ante-Natal visits to Expectant Mothers.	451
Home Conditions Reports for Hospital	36
Ante-Natal Session - General Practitioner	Nil
Deliveries - Home	38
Deliveries - Hospital	56
Total - Live and Stillbirths	95
Early Hospital Discharge - 48 hours	2

HEALTH VISITING - SECTION 24 - BALDOCK

The work of the Health Visitors has tended to expand during the year and developmental tests of young children are now routinely performed. Progress has also been made in the eye testing of school children with the introduction of the Keystone Machine, which also discovers latent squints and colour blindness.

Two health visitors were employed during 1968.

Health Visiting.

Child Welfare	Visits	1,918
Aged	"	315
Others	"	170
School Inspections	Sessions	46
Maternity and Child Welfare	Sessions	188

HOME NURSING - SECTION 25

The staff of the home nursing service in Baldock at 31st December, 1968 consisted of one part-time district nurse; two full time district nurse/midwives and two part-time district nurse/midwives. The staff who are able to drive cars are either authorised to use their own vehicles on official business, or have been provided with county-owned motor vehicles.

The following are statistics relating to the work of the home nurses in 1968. It will be seen that they made 5,974 visits to 201 patients; 56 per cent of the patients nursed were aged 65 or over and they were visited on 4,950 occasions; 82 per cent of all visits, therefore, were made to this age group.



HOME NURSING

Classification	No. of cases attended	No. of visits made.
Medical	162	4,675
Surgical	29	1,296
Tuberculosis	-	-
Others	10	3
TOTALS	201	5,974
Patients included above who were aged 65 or over	114	4,950
Children included above who were under 5 or less	3	43
G.P. Surgery	Sessions	-
G.P. Surgery	Treatments	-

AMBULANCE SERVICE - SECTION 27

NORTH HERTS.

Number of patients conveyed	66,017
Number of journeys	24,182
Total mileage	436,031
<u>Details of Journeys:</u>	
Accidents	1,624
Sudden illness	586
Removals	62,937
Maternity	870
Total	<u>66,017</u>

The division area is served by the County Ambulance Station at St. George's Way, Stevenage. The Area Supervisor is Mr. J. Sweetman, who has kindly supplied the above statistics.



PREVENTION OF ILLNESS: CARE AND AFTER-CARE - SECTION 28

NORTH HERTS.

The provision of the medical loans service continued to be delegated to the voluntary organisations of the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade. No charge was made and many items, such as back-rests, air-rings, bedpans, etc., were included. More expensive equipment was provided directly by County Hall and patients have benefited from the use of ripple beds, hydraulic hoists, bath-seats etc.

Forty-four patients were recommended by their family doctors for a convalescent holiday and these were mainly spent at County Hall's convalescent home at St. Leonard's-on-Sea.

CHEST CLINIC:

HEALTH VISITING:

Tuberculosis Households - Visits	319
B.C.G. Follow-up - Visits	64
Contacts - Visits	263
Non-Tuberculosis - Visits	116

NEW CASES:

Immigrants	10
Others	22
Contacts of New Cases	166
Heaf negative	59
B.C.G. vaccination	95

VENEREAL DISEASES

Special Clinic	Totals all Venereal Conditions.	Number of New Cases in 1968			
		Syphilis		Gonorrhoea	Other Venereal Conditions
		Primary and Secondary	Other		
Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge	22	1	-	-	21
Lister Hospital, Hitchin.	226	-	2	44	180
TOTAL	248	1	2	44	201

All venereal conditions increased by 13% in 1968, this figure however, is probably not statistically valid and does not reveal the true incidence in North Hertfordshire.

## CERVICAL CYTOLOGY

CLINICS	No.1st attend-ances	% Pop. at risk attending	Negative		Positive		Unsatis- factory specimens		Inflam- matory Changes		Tricho- monas Vaginalis		Monilia		Suspicious		Cell Irregu- larities	
			No.	%.	No.	%.	No.	%.	No.	%.	No.	%.	No.	%.	No.	%.		
HITCHIN	455	1) 11) 3 4	417	91.65	1	0.22	4	0.88	13	2.85	18	3.96	3	0.66	-	-	8	1.76
LETCHEWORTH	288	1) 11) 3 3	287	99.64	1	0.34	1	0.08	75	26.0	4	0.02	1	1.08	1	1.08	-	-
STEVENAGE	808	1) 11) 8 11	743	91.09	5	.60	1	0.12	144	10.70	6	0.74	8	0.90	5	0.61	-	-
ROYSTON	45	1) 11) 0.53 2	49	100%	Nil	-	-	-	39	69.59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

CYTOLOGY CLINIC  
"WELL WOMAN" CLINIC - JANUARY 1968

Hitchin  
Letchworth  
Stevenage  
Royston

-  
-  
-  
-

Every Wednesday a.m.  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays a.m.  
Thursday a.m. & Friday p.m.  
Every 3rd Wednesday in the month a.m.

In 1968 attendances at the Cytology Clinics showed a slight increase at Hitchin and Letchworth but were lower at Stevenage than in 1967. This continues to give some cause for concern and perhaps a publicity campaign during the coming year would renew public interest in these clinics.

In September 1968 a clinic was started at Royston. Attendances at this particular clinic has been satisfactory and the waiting list is long, so much so that consideration is being given to holding an extra session each month.

(i) Aged 20 and over.

Population At Risk Women (Sample Census 1966 - estimated error 1.6 per cent deficient.

(ii) Aged 30 and over.

Baldock U.D.	(i) 2,080	Hitchin U.D.	(i) 9,540	Stevenage U.D.	(i) 16,200
(ii) 1,740	(ii) 7,900	(ii) 12,350			
Letchworth U.D.	(i) 9,480	Royston U.D.	(i) 2,260	Hitchin U.D.	(i) 8,560
(ii) 7,950	(ii) 1,860	(ii) 7,200			

TOTAL AT RISK

(i) 48,120  
(ii) 39,000



### MEALS ON WHEELS - BALDOCK

Meals on Wheels Services were in operation in all parts of the division in 1968. Under the provisions of the scheme meals are provided to people suffering from malnutrition or who are unable to cook their own meals due to disability or infirmity.

District	No. of persons	Frequency	Total Meals.
Baldock.	13	Twice Weekly	992

The problems of organisation of a Meals on Wheels service are often very great and I would like to record my indebtedness to the following W.R.V.S. Centre Organiser for her work during the year - Mrs. A.E. Cowgill.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 47

This section of the Act is concerned with the compulsory removal of persons in need of care from their homes on a Court Order, or in emergency on an Order signed by two medical practitioners and a Justice of the Peace. Such a person may be removed to a county home or hospital provided that all sections of the Act are satisfied.

Such action was not necessary during 1968.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, SECTIONS 21 - 36:

During 1968 the shortage of geriatric beds at Lister Hospital continued to cause difficulties in the admission of patients from County Council Old People's Homes despite the utmost help and co-operation from Dr. C. Firth, Consultant Geriatrician.

The heavy demand for residential accommodation continued - the waiting list being eighteen men and sixty women. The position will not be eased by Governmental restrictions on new buildings.

# BLIND WELFARE

District	No. of registered Blind Persons	No. of Registered Partially sighted Persons	*No. of Registered Blind and partially sighted persons with other handicaps including deafness and mental subnormality.
Baldock	27	12	22

Patients were visted at varying intervals throughout the year according to their separate needs. Lessons were given in typewriting, Braille and Moon, and handicraft lessons. Applications were made for wirelasses, talking books, holidays and grants, and orders were made for R.N.I.B. apparatus. Other associations, etc., were contacted where necessary. Several outings to the seaside and country were arranged.

## Mental Health Act, 1959 - Sections 25, 26 and 29

During 1968, 100 patients were admitted to mental hospitals on Compulsory Orders and 14 were admitted on an informal basis.

The Social Workers dealth with 375 mental health cases during 1968.

## Training Centres

Junior Training Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin.

Special Care Unit	9
General Unit	43
Nursery	17
TOTAL	<u>69</u>

Adult Training Centre, Leyden Road, Stevenage.

Trainees on roll 1st January 1968	35
Trainees on roll 31st December 1968	43
12 Males )	
9 Females )	joined the Centre during 1968
8 Males )	
5 Females )	left the centre during 1968



## Health Education

All members of the staff are involved in health education, whatever their appointment may be, but in addition the health visitors have given many talks, illustrated by films and film strips, these include:-

14	sessions with school children of all ages on general health and human biology.
2	" " Parent/Teacher's Association on Sex Education.
3	" " Couples hoping to adopt babies.
2	" " Expectant parents when the film "To Janet a Son" was shown and discussed.
2	" " Young Wives and Youth Leaders on the work of the Health Visitor and Adolescence.
7	" " Guides and Scouts on First Aid.

### DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE - SECTION 29

Number of Home Helps employed at 31. 12. 68.	62
Number of Good Neighbours employed at 31. 12. 68.	11

In March the Part-Time Assistant Home Help Organiser, Mrs. E.C.Wigg, retired and it was decided not to appoint another Assistant - but to make a new establishment of Full-Time Area Home Help Organiser to take over the Letchworth, Baldock and Royston areas, under the supervision of the Divisional Home Help Organiser, Mrs. O.M. Benton. Mrs. A. Eccles was appointed to this post in November.

### GROUPS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE

	No. of cases	No.of hours given
1. Maternity (including expectant mothers)	90	2,058 $\frac{1}{2}$
2. Chronic Sick:		
(a) Aged 65 plus	431	42,385 $\frac{3}{4}$
(b) Aged under 65 and T.B.	33	
3. Others:	95	5,710 $\frac{3}{4}$
Including:		
(a) Mental Health		
(b) Tuberculosis		
(c) Blind		
(d) Miscellaneous		
Acute Cases		
Accidents		
TOTAL	649	50,155

66% cases in 1968 were over 65 and 83% total hours was given to this age group. 13% cases were maternity absorbing only 4% total hours.

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

In this division we have tried to improve the standard of the five year old medical by having M.C.W. records and up to date medical reports available at the first medical examination. School Health Consultation clinics are being used more as it is felt that these give the Head Teachers the opportunity to immediately refer children they are concerned about to the doctor. Audiometric screen-testing is now taking place in the Infant's schools and during 1968 1,747 six year olds were tested and 144 children failed this initial sweep test. Annual eye testing is now routinely performed in all schools and infants schools will be visited three times a year to test entrants eyes in their first term.

Special education facilities were extended in this area when the Brandles Close School opened in September 1968. Head Teachers are encouraged to refer children who are experiencing educational difficulties so that early assessments can be made, and if necessary transfer to Longfield School at the age of six. There are 110 children at Brandles Close School (12 - 16 years) and 108 at Longfield (6 - 11 years). There are now five special classes for emotionally disturbed and retarded children attached to ordinary schools in the area.

There are now three speech therapists in this division, and if children do not respond favourably to therapy there is a special speech therapy unit at Trotts Hill Infants School for children with severe speech defects.

One School Medical Officer states that she is impressed with the school childrens standard of health including dental hygiene.

The medical staffing position in the division continues to be at a seriously low level and I would pay tribute to the hard work of the school medical officers under trying conditions. The whole time medical staff remain at three and efforts to recruit more have been unsuccessful.

TABLE 1. - BALDOCK

Inspection of School Children 1968:

Entrants including 8 year olds.	82
First year Secondary	7
Last year Secondary	63
TOTAL	<u>152</u>
Number of special inspections	5
Number of re-inspections	47
TOTAL	<u>52</u>
TOTAL INSPECTION	204

Physical Condition of Pupils Inspected:

Satisfactory	152
Found to require treatment	Nil



# TABLE II - BALDOCK

## B.C.G. VACCINATION - 11,12 and 13 YEARS AND OLDER SCHOOL CHILDREN:

Number of children offered testing and vaccination if necessary	216
Number of acceptances	184
Percentage of acceptances	80.5%

## PRE-VACCINATION TUBERCULIN TEST:

Number tested	184
---------------	-----

## RESULT OF TEST:

Number previously converted by B.C.G.	4
Number positive	1
Number negative	160
Number not ascertained	19
Percentage positive	0.54%
Number vaccinated	160

## Audiometry.

Number tested	607
Number with no loss	332

On 3rd September, 1968 the Keystone apparatus was brought into use for eye testing. Two new members of the nursing staff were trained in the use of this apparatus and from the time of it's introduction up to 31st December, 1968, a total of 5,170 children had been successfully tested.

It will be seen from the following statistics that of the 5,170 children tested, 10.6% were found to have defects.

## DETAILS OF EYE TESTING PROGRAMME SEPT/DEC.1968.

Age Group	No. Schools entered	No.Sessions	No.Tested	Defects Found	No.referred to school ophthalmic clinic.
Entrants	58	58	2,700	154-5.7%	69
8-11 yrs	7	39	1,750	279-15.9%	52
14 yrs	10	22	720	117-16.2%	37
Totals	75	119	5,170	550-10.8%	158

## HOSPITAL SERVICES

The hospital services for the area are administered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board with the Luton and Hitchin Hospital Management Committee. Addenbrooke's Hospital is administered by the United Cambridge Hospitals.

### GENERAL HOSPITAL SERVICES.

North Hertfordshire Hospital, Hitchin.  
Lister Hospital, Hitchin.  
Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

### MENTAL HOSPITAL.

Fairfield Hospital, Stotfold, Hitchin.

### MATERNITY HOSPITAL SERVICES

North Hertfordshire Maternity Unit, Hitchin.

### CHEST CLINIC.

Lister Hospital, Hitchin.

### LABORATORY SERVICES.

Dr. A.T. Willis, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton, Beds.  
Dr. G.R.E. Maylor, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.



## SECTION C

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### (1) Water Supply

Regular sampling of the water supplied to the town by the Lee Valley Water Company has shown it to be consistently of excellent quality and quantity.

104 bacteriological and 3 chemical samples taken during the year were all reported as conforming to the standards of purity suitable for public supply.

Direct piped supply is provided to all premises in the district, and there is no evidence of plumbo-solvency.

The average fluoride content is less than 0.02 parts per million.

### (2) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The town is served by a main sewerage system, into which all but three premises are connected, two of which have septic tanks and the other a cesspool.

No new sewer was laid during the year.

In March 1968, the Council received the report of the consulting engineers, made after an extensive survey and inspection of the foul and surface water sewers, which showed that the sewers in the older part of the town were urgently in need of repair and replacement, which would cost an estimated sum of £217,000 to carry out. An overall scheme was prepared, in which priorities were assessed, and the work involved broken down into two stages. Stage I was submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for technical and outline design approval.

## SECTION D

## HOUSING

### (1) Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

SECTION EINSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

- (1) The types of food premises subject to the Food Hygiene Regulations are as follows:

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number fitted to comply with</u>		<u>Number to which Reg. 19 applies</u>
		<u>Reg. 16</u>	<u>Reg. 19</u>	
Butchers	5	5	5	5
Cafes & Snack Bars	7	7	7	7
Bakers & Confectioners	4	4	4	4
Fishmongers	2	2	2	2
Greengrocers & Fruiterers	3	3	3	3
Bakehouses	2	2	2	2
Canteens	2	2	2	2
Public Houses	15	15	7	7
Off-licences	2	2	1	1
Grocers & Provision Merchants	7	7	5	5

- (2) There are no poultry processing premises in the district.

# FACTORIES ACT 1961

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1968 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BALDOCK IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORDSHIRE

### Prescribed Particulars on the Administration

#### of the Factories Act 1961

#### Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises  (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities				
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	19		
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	2	2		
Total	31	21		



2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H. M. Inspector (4)	By H. M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total	3	3			

OUTWORKERS

There were no notifications of outworkers being employed in the district.